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Income and Expenditure Survey, 1995

Statistics South Africa

CODEBOOK

SADA 0073

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STUDY DESCRIPTION

SADA 0073

TITLE: Income and Expenditure Survey, 1995

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Statistics South Africa

DEPOSITOR: Statistics South Africa

ORGANISATION HOUSING THE DATA:

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SERIES DATA:

Series name:	Principal Investigator:	Currently available:
Income and Expenditure Survey	Statistics South Africa	1995, 2000, 2005/2006

ABSTRACT:

The new constitution (Act 108 of 1996) is founded on a set of values which embody non-racialism, non-sexism, respect for human dignity, equality, human rights and freedom for all. Explicit discrimination and denial of human rights, which formed the basis of the apartheid past, has been rejected by most South Africans.

Despite these recent advances in democracy, socio-economic deprivation and profound contrasts in life circumstances along racial, urban-rural and gender divides, persist. Although South Africa is a middle-level income country, comparable with Brazil, Chile, Malaysia, Poland, Thailand and Venezuela (World Bank/SALDRU, 1995), it is characterised by gross inequalities, partially the legacy of apartheid policies.

- Income distribution in South Africa is extremely unequal, comparable to other countries which have very large gaps between rich and poor (World Bank/SALDRU, 1995).
- Access to basic services, such as clean water and sanitation, is also highly unequal (Central Statistical Service, 1996).
- South Africa fares particularly badly in international comparisons of social indicators, such as life expectancy, infant mortality and illiteracy (World Bank/SALDRU, 1995).

The government was committed to improving the life circumstances and quality of life of all South Africans, particularly those who were previously disadvantaged. To meet this challenge, and to plan and implement change, a variety of role-payers – government, the private sector, trade unions and other institutions of civil society – required accurate information on a range of aspects of South African life. The Central Statistical Service (CSS), with its vast numbers of data collections, was the most appropriate agency to provide such data.

There were numerous ways of collecting information on household income and expenditure. For example, people in selected households may be asked to keep receipts of all their purchases, or keep a diary of all expenditure over a specified time period. In addition to, or instead of these methods, a household survey can be conducted. Due to the relatively low level of literacy in South Africa, and the associated difficulty of record-keeping for many people, the Central Statistical Service chose the route of utilising households for its October 1995 income and expenditure survey.

Through the Income Expenditure Survey, the Central Statistical Service determined the proportion of expenditure in an average household, or in sub-groups of various types of households, that went towards purchasing each of a variety of goods and services, such as food, housing, transport and recreation. On the basis of this information, weights for each item of expenditure, based on household averages, or on other classification variables, were calculated.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: South Africa

IMPORTANT VARIABLES :

The 1995 Income and Expenditure Survey questionnaire contains questions about all sources of household income. It also covers the purchase of a wide variety of products and services, including new items such as cellular telephones.

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES:

Age, gender, population group, profession.

UNIVERSE :

Data collected on households were raised to the estimated number of households in the country in the various provinces, according to the proportions found in urban and non-urban areas in the 1991 census.

SAMPLING:

Two surveys, namely the Central Statistical Service's annual October household survey (OHS) and the Income and Expenditure Survey were run concurrently during October 1995.

- Information for the IES was obtained, as far as possible, from the same 30 000 households that were visited for the 1995 OHS.
- Altogether, 3 000 enumerator areas (EAs) were drawn for the sample, and ten households were visited in each EA.
- The sample was stratified by race, province, urban and non-urban area.
- The 1991 population census was used as a frame for drawing the sample, including estimates of the size of the population in the formerly independent TBVC (Transkei-Bophuthatswana-Venda-Ciskei) states.

DATE OF DATA COLLECTION:

October 1995

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION :

Throughout South Africa, information was collected through face-to-face interviews in the 30 000 households which formed the sample. Field workers first administered the October Household Survey questionnaire, and returned at a slightly later date to administer the questionnaire for the Income and Expenditure Survey.

UNITS OF OBSERVATION: Households.

EXTENT OF DATA COLLECTION

❖ 9 data files in SPSS and machine-readable documentation and questionnaire.

	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	Kwazulu-Natal	Mpumalanga
Number of cases	5 317	3 285	3 490	5 188	2 533
Number of records	5 317	3 285	3 490	5 188	2 533
Number of records per case	1	1	1	1	1
Logical record length	80	80	80	80	80
Number of variables	970	970	970	970	970
Number of kilobytes	19, 677	12, 171	13, 442	19, 511	9, 513

	North West	Northern Cape	North Province	Western Cape
Number of cases	2 453	1 435	2 668	3 226
Number of records	2 453	1 435	2 668	3 226
Number of records per case	1	1	1	1
Logical record length	80	80	80	80
Number of variables	970	970	970	970
Number of kilobytes	9, 160	5, 354	10, 002	12, 280

PUBLICATIONS:

Orkin, M. 1997. Earning and spending in South Africa. Selected findings of the 1995 Income and Expenditure Survey. Pretoria: Central Statistical Service.